

## Message Text

SECRET

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

ACDA-19 PRS-01 L-03 DPW-01 DRC-01 /105 W

----- 005819

O 020330Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1342

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 8063

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOB, MARR, KS, KN

SUBJ: 346TH MAC MEETING: NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS

CLAIMNO

REF: UNC 011145Z DEC 73

1. AT THE 346TH MAC MEETING KPA SENIOR MEMBER STATED THAT IF OUR SIDE "WANTS TO SAIL TO WATERS" OF THE FIVE UNC-CONTROLLED ISLANDS IN YELLOW SEA WE SHOULD SUBMIT REQUEST TO NORTH KOREAN SIDE AND GET APPROVAL IN ADVANCE. TEXT OF NK STATEMENT ON THIS CONTAINED IN REPORT OF MAC MEETING (REFTEL). NK STATEMENT WAS MADE IN CONCLUDING REMARKS AND THERE WAS NO EXPLICIT ACTION THREATENED. HOWEVER, STATEMENT APPEARED DELIBERATE AND WARNED THAT NK SIDE "WILL TAKE PROPER STEPS" IF UNC DOES NOT RESPOND TO ITS DEMANDS. NK ALSO WARNED AGAINST MISJUDGMENT OF ITS "PATIENCE" AS "WEAKNESS." UNC SENIOR MEMBER REJECTED NK DEMAND.

2. NK STATEMENT CAREFULLY DID NOT CLAIM SOVEREIGNTY OVER FIVE ISLANDS BUT WAS PART OF THEIR GENERAL

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APPROACH AT MEETING TO STAKE OUT CLAIM TO TERRITORIAL

WATERS IN SEA OFF HAEJU, TEUNGSANGOT, AND ONGJIN  
PENINSULA TO A RADIUS OF 12 NAUTICAL MILES.

3. INITIAL ROK REACTION HAS PREDICTABLY BEEN ONE OF DEEP CONCERN, AND STRONG DESIRE FOR AN INCREASED STATE OF READINESS OF THE ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, SENIOR UNC OFFICERS HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH MND AND JCS AND THEIR ORIGINAL REACTION APPEARS TO BE MODERATING FOR THE MOMENT. THE COURSE OF ACTION DISCUSSED BELOW HAS ROK SUPPORT.

4. INTENT OF UNC NAVAL COMMANDER IS TO CONTINUE RESUPPLY OF ISLANDS ON A BUSINESS AS USUAL BASIS. THIS CONSISTS OF A GROUP OF ONE FERRY AND TWO OTHER SMALL COMMERCIAL CARGO SHIPS ONCE PER WEEK. THESE SHIPS USUALLY ARRIVE ONE AFTERNOON FROM INCHON AND DEPART THE FOLLOWING MORNING FROM PAENG YONG DO, THE MOST REMOTE AND LARGEST ISLAND. THE GROUP IS NORMALLY ESCORTED BY AN ROK PATROL CRAFT FOR MOST OF THE JOURNEY. NAVY AMPHIBIOUS CRAFT MAKE PERIODIC LOGISTIC TRIPS FOR MILITARY RESUPPLY OF BOTH PAENGYONG-DO AND YONPYONG-DO. THIS AVERAGES ABOUT ONE LST OR LSM PER WEEK. LAST FERRY TRIP TO PAENGYONG-DO ARRIVED THERE NOV 29 AND DEPARTED THIS A.M. DEC 1.

5. THESE OPERATIONS WILL BE MOST CLOSELY MONITORED IN VIEW OF NORTH KOREAN DEMAND AT MAC MEETING. WE WILL RESIST ANY ROK DEMANDS TO MOUNT A MAJOR SHOW OF FORCE.  
UNDERHILL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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